



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY URGES GENERAL PLAN BE STRENGTHENED TO BETTER ADDRESS GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

State Attorney General Believes City's Current General Plan Legally Insufficient

San Diego, CA: In a memorandum to the Mayor and San Diego City Council, City Attorney Michael Aguirre today urged that the City's draft General Plan update be revised to better address the impacts of global climate change.

"City residents expect their municipal government to take responsibility and address scientific reality when they shape the City's plans for the next twenty years," said Aguirre. "The General Plan is a document that impacts future generations not just the current one. It must recognize the fact that the next generation will have to deal with climate change," he added.

State requirements dictate that local municipalities update their General Plans periodically. These documents guide future land use and growth patterns. Because future growth can result in increased production of pollutants that affect the global climate, state law requires an environmental analysis of the General Plan.

The State Attorney General recently reviewed the City's proposed update and concluded that it lacked enforceable requirements. According to the Attorney General, "The proposed General Plan reads more as a statement of preferences and opinions, rather than a definite commitment to adopt and enforce policies and specific standards."

The memorandum from the City Attorney offered extensive recommendations that would put teeth into the General Plan. For example, the City Attorney has advocated that the City's recycling program be mandatory, rather than voluntary and has urged that the measure be placed before voters.

The City Attorney's commitment to addressing climate change issues has not faltered since he took office as evidenced by his sponsorship of two global warming energy conferences in August 2006 and April 2007.

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